

closing ceremony also included prayer, dance, song and remembrances.

The Stowe Weekend of Hope was founded in 2001. Since its inception, the event has grown locally and nationally to continue its focus its mission of support, education and inspiration.

It makes me proud of Vermont.●

#### HONORING SAFE HANDLING, INC.

● Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, today I wish to celebrate the remarkable achievements of a small Maine company that is doing business in an incredibly forward-thinking way. Safe Handling, Inc., of Auburn, is a cutting-edge transporter of industrial products, and both the firm and its president, Ford Reiche, have earned significant recognition, culminating in Mr. Reiche being named the U.S. Small Business Administration's 2008 Maine Small Business Person of the Year.

Founded in 1989, Safe Handling offers businesses the convenience of both bulk product transportation and logistics, as well as toll processing, to enable them to more efficiently move their goods. Significantly, Safe Handling is responsible for both sensitive and hazardous materials. To safely handle these products, the firm runs the largest rail-to-truck transloading facilities in both New England and western Pennsylvania, where it has an additional transload yard and warehouse. Safe Handling presently manages roughly a half million tons of products every year which translates to nearly 4,000 railcars and 12,000 truckloads of raw materials annually. It also operates the only ethanol terminal in Maine.

Transporting such perilous materials requires Safe Handling to be mindful of many concerns, and the company has risen to the top as a leader in environmental safety by exceeding Federal and State requirements on a regular basis. Most recently, the company became the first Maine-owned business to earn both the ISO14001 and Responsible Care certifications, which address a host of health, safety, environmental, and security concerns. Of all its initiatives, Safe Handling has most visibly led the way in reducing transportation emissions. The company ships dry products that it transfers into liquids, uses tri-axle trucks, provides long-haul rail services, and utilizes biodiesel fuel, all of which reduce discharge. Not surprisingly, the firm placed first in the Governor's Carbon Challenge, by voluntarily reducing its carbon emissions by 75 percent. Safe Handling has additionally instituted an Employee Green Idea Reward Program that gives \$100 to each employee who saves the company money through an environmentally friendly idea.

Because of its innovative practices and proven track record, Safe Handling has garnered three prestigious awards this year alone. In March, *Mainebiz* magazine declared Ford Reiche its Executive of the Year in its large business

category. Less than a month later, the Maine International Trade Center recognized Safe Handling as its Maine Innovative Company of the Year Award for the company's energy saving methods and customer savings. Additionally, the U.S. Small Business Administration presented Mr. Reiche with its prestigious 2008 Maine Small Business Person of the Year for his "business expertise, commitment, creativity and community involvement." Mr. Reiche's dedication and knowledge inspire the nearly 100 employees of Safe Handling, and the company is a better place for his profound leadership skills.

Safe Handling is truly a company of which all Mainers can be proud. Consistently seeking greater energy efficiency while never sacrificing its loyalty to its customers, Safe Handling promises to make the Lewiston-Auburn area—and Maine—a better place in every way. I am particularly impressed with the passion and enthusiasm of Mr. Reiche, who I was fortunate enough to meet with just a few weeks ago. His desire to create jobs and opportunities in Central Maine truly shined through during our time together. I congratulate Ford Reiche and everyone at Safe Handling for their amazing accolades and pioneering enterprises, and wish them more of the success that they have already demonstrated.●

#### MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mrs. Neiman, one of his secretaries.

#### EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

#### TEXT OF A PROPOSED AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION FOR COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF PEACEFUL USES OF NUCLEAR ENERGY—PM 48

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

*To the Congress of the United States:*

I am pleased to transmit to the Congress, pursuant to sections 123b. and 123d. of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (42 U.S.C. 2153(b), (d)) (the "Act"), the text of a proposed Agreement Between the Government of the

United States of America and the Government of the Russian Federation for Cooperation in the Field of Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy. I am also pleased to transmit my written approval, authorization, and determination concerning the Agreement, and a Nuclear Proliferation Assessment Statement (NPAS) concerning the Agreement (in accordance with section 123 of the Act, as amended by title XII of the Foreign Affairs Reform and Restructuring Act of 1998 (Public Law 105-277), a classified annex to the NPAS, prepared by the Secretary of State in consultation with the Director of National Intelligence, summarizing relevant classified information, will be submitted to the Congress separately). The joint memorandum submitted to me by the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Energy and a letter from the Chairman of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission stating the views of the Commission are also enclosed.

The proposed Agreement has been negotiated in accordance with the Act and other applicable law. In my judgment, it meets all applicable statutory requirements and will advance the non-proliferation and other foreign policy interests of the United States.

The proposed Agreement provides a comprehensive framework for peaceful nuclear cooperation with Russia based on a mutual commitment to nuclear non-proliferation. It has a term of 30 years, and permits the transfer of technology, material, equipment (including reactors), and components for nuclear research and nuclear power production. It does not permit transfers of Restricted Data, and permits transfers of sensitive nuclear technology, sensitive nuclear facilities, and major critical components of such facilities by amendment to the Agreement. In the event of termination, key non-proliferation conditions and controls continue with respect to material and equipment subject to the Agreement.

The Russian Federation is a nuclear weapon state party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. Like the United States, it has a "voluntary offer" safeguards agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). That agreement gives the IAEA the right to apply safeguards on all source or special fissionable material at peaceful nuclear facilities on a Russia-provided list. The Russian Federation is also a party to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, which establishes international standards of physical protection for the use, storage, and transport of nuclear material. It is also a member of the Nuclear Suppliers Group, whose non-legally binding Guidelines set forth standards for the responsible export of nuclear commodities for peaceful use. A more detailed discussion of Russia's domestic civil nuclear program and its nuclear non-proliferation policies and practices, including its nuclear export policies and practices, is provided in the NPAS and